ZERO'S FAMILIAR Chevalier

3

story:
NOBORU YAMAGUCHI

art:
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Zero's Familiar Chevalier

8

Art: Yukari Higa

Story: Noboru Yamaguchi

Character Design: Eiji Usatsuka

The Story Thus Far

SAITO HIGARA WAS SUMMONED TO A STRANGE WORLD CALLED HALKEGINIA BY A GIRL NAMED LOUISE, WHO'S VERY CUTE BUT HAS ZERO MAGICAL TALENT! DESPITE BEING SEEN AS A FAILED SUMMONING, SAITO SEALED HIS FATE WITH A KISS AND REMAINS IN LOUISE'S WORLD AS HER FAMILIAR.

AFTER LOUISE AWAKENED AS A LEGENDARY VOID MAGE AND SAITO ACQUIRED A ZERO FIGHTER PLANE, THE TWO OF THEM MANAGED TO REPEL THE RECONQUISTA--A SHADOWY ORGANIZATION WHO DECLARED WAR AGAINST TRISTAIN. THANKS TO QUEEN HENRIETTA'S QUICK THINKING, THE KINGDOM OF TRISTAIN MANAGED TO SMOKE OUT A HIGH-LEVEL TRAITOR. THE ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST ALBION HAS BEGUN!

FOR THEIR FIRST MAJOR MISSION IN THE ATTACK ON ALBION, LOUISE AND SAITO WERE JOINED BY A SQUAD OF DRAGON KNIGHTS. THE KNIGHTS SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO DEFEND SAITO'S PLANE, AND NOW THE TWO OF THEM CONTINUE TOWARD DARDANELLES TO COMPLETE THEIR MISSION.

Cast of Characters

Louise

SAITO'S MASTER, WHO WIELDS THE LEGENDARY ELEMENT KNOWN AS "VOID." PRIDEFUL DAUGHTER OF A POWERFUL NOBLE FAMILY, ALSO KNOWN AS "LOUISE THE ZERO."

Siesta

A 17-YEAR-OLD COMMONER WHO WORKS AS A MAID AT THE MAGIC ACADEMY. SHE HAS FEELINGS FOR SAITO AND AN IMPRESSIVE RACK.

Agnès

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S MUSKETEERS. EXTREMELY LOYAL AND SKILLED WITH BOTH SWORDS AND GUNS. NICKNAMED THE "MAGE KILLER."

Saito Hiraga

SAITO WAS SUMMONED BY LOUISE AS HER FAMILIAR AND LATER DISCOVERED THAT HE'S THE LEGENDARY FAMILIAR KNOWN AS "GANDALFR," WHO CAN WIELD ANY WEAPON. FIGHTS WITH A MAGIC TALKING BLADE CALLED DERFLINGER.

Henrietta

PRINCESS, AND LATER QUEEN, OF THE KINGDOM OF TRISTAIN. SHE T...K THE THRONE AT THE START OF THE WAR WITH ALBION. LOUISE'S CHILDHOOD FIEND.

Colbert

TRIANGLE FIRE ... AND TEACHER AT TRISTAIN'S MAGIC ACADEMY. HIS GENTLE NATURE HIDES A SECRET, DARK PAST.

CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
TMP
AH!
KAF
CHK
FWOOOSH

THEY'RE GIRLS, SIR.
AND THEY LOOK YOUNG...
WHAT A WASTE.
FWOOO
JUST DON'T KILL THE NOBLE BRATS, CAPTAIN. WE CAN'T USE DEAD KIDS AS HOSTAGES.
THAT MEANS... EVERYONE ELSE IS DEAD MEAT.

Chapter 14: The Ruby of Atonement – Part IV

コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK
CHEE
CHEE
RUSTL
KA-CHK
……！

TABITHA? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S STILL DARK... WHY ARE YOU ALREADY DRESSED?
SOME-THING'S WRONG.
.....!

SHHNK

RURRR...

BA-
BAM
GUESS SO.
RETREAT. FOR NOW.
YEAH.

SHHK
I'M FINE.
CAPTAIN AGNÈS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
THNK
MUST BE ONE OF ALBION'S LAPDOGS.
KYAAA!
THE MALE STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO THE FRONT TO FIGHT...
THESE KNAVES ATTACK US WHILE WE'RE SO DEFENSE-LESS...
SUIT UP AND FOLLOW ME!

CAFETERIA.
NO REASON TO LOOK SO SCARED.
.....
YOU KNOW...
AS LONG AS NO ONE TRIES ANYTHING RECKLESS...
YOU'RE WORKING FOR ALBION, AREN'T YOU? THAT'S WHY YOU'VE TAKEN US HOSTAGE.
SMIRK
YOU PLAN TO USE US IN YOUR NEGOTIA-TIONS, CORRECT?
BUT KEEPING THIS MANY HOSTAGES IS UNNECES-SARY... ONE OLD MAN SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR YOUR PURPOSES, HMM?
WE'LL HAVE NO REASON TO HURT YOU. BE GOOD, AND YOU'LL ALL BE FINE.

LISTEN UP! WE ARE HER ROYAL MAJESTY'S MUSKETEERS!
WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED--THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO RUN!
SURRENDER YOURSELVES AND RELEASE THE HOSTAGES!!
SURRENDER?
BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST STARTED.
IF YOU WANT THE HOSTAGES RETURNED SAFELY, CALL HENRIETTA HERE.

HER MAJESTY?
FOR MY FIRST DEMAND, I REQUIRE THE QUEEN TO WITHDRAW ALL OF HER SOLDIERS FROM ALBION.
MY EMPLOYER ISN'T SO FOND OF HAVING ALBION'S SOIL TRAMPLED BY DIRTY FOREIGN FEET.
OVER A DOZEN YOUNG DAUGHTERS OF NOBLE FAMILIES... IT COULD BE ENOUGH TO FORCE THE ARMY TO WITHDRAW.
I CAME HERE TO TRAIN THESE GIRLS, TO TEACH THEM TO FIGHT, AND YET...THIS IS MY FAULT!
YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO MAKE YOUR CHOICE!
WILL YOU CALL HENRIETTA HERE?!
IF I DON'T RECEIVE A RESPONSE IN FIVE MINUTES, I WILL KILL ONE HOSTAGE FOR EVERY MINUTE YOU'RE LATE.
RUSTLE
UNDERSTAND, LITTLE KNIGHT?
UGH!
MISS CAPTAIN!

DASH
YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND FREE WHILE YOUR STUDENTS ARE CAPTIVE?!
MY RESEARCH LABORATORY IS FAR FROM THE MAIN TOWER, SO...
MISS MUSKET-EER.
HUFF
HUFF
THEY DIDN'T TAKE YOU?
TP
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
I'VE GOT A PLAN.
WE CAN USE THIS TO LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK.
SHHH
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE OUT HERE, THOUGH.
AND I'D RATHER DO *SOMETHING* THAN WAIT AROUND DOING NOTHING, *SIR.*
YOUR OPPONENTS ARE PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS--I HIGHLY DOUBT A TRICK LIKE THAT WILL WORK ON THEM!
SHH
SO, ARE YOU IN?
TICK
TOCK
TICK
LET'S DO IT.
CLENCH

MURMUR
MURMUR
FIVE MINUTES ARE UP.
WAIT! KILL ME INSTEAD!
GLARE
DON'T BLAME ME FOR THIS.
RISE
WHOO
WHOO
WHOO
ALSO, YOU'RE ACTUALLY VITAL TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS.
NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD NEGOTIATE ANYTHING FOR THE LIFE OF ONE OLD MAN...

?
WHOOO
POP
POP
POP
NOW!
DASH

I'LL GET EVERYONE OUT, WHILE--!
SO THE KIDNAPPERS SHOULD ALL BE BLINDED AND IMMOBILIZED.
I HAD TABITHA USE HER WIND MAGIC TO SEND THE PAPER BALLOONS IN, AND I IGNITED THEM...
FWOOOSH
FIRE MAGIC...
IT WAS CAST AT THE GROUND, AND THE IMPACT MADE A MASSIVE SHOCKWAVE.
FOOOOOM!!

CRUSH
NICE ONE.
EXPLODING YOUR LITTLE LIGHT BALLS TO BLIND MY MEN...
GRRIND
THING IS, *MY EYES* WERE BURNED OUT LONG AGO-AND YOU CAN'T BLIND SOMEONE WHO ALREADY CAN'T SEE.
I SENSE PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR **BODY TEMPER-ATURE,** INSTEAD.

IS THAT... EVEN POSSIBLE?!
THEY SAY THAT SNAKES FIND THEIR PREY THE SAME WAY.
SMIRK
ARE YOU SCARED?
YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU?!
I WANT TO SMELL IT.
I WANT TO SMELL THE SWEET SCENT OF YOU BURNING!
NO...!!!
FWOOOSH

FWOOOM
DODGE
OH-!
IT'S YOU!
FSSSSS...
STEP AWAY...
FROM MY STU-DENT.
FSSSSS

HA HA!
FINALLY, I FOUND YOU!
THE TEMPER-ATURE I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR, ALL THIS TIME!
COLBERT! HA! IT'S BEEN SO LONG! THAT'S YOUR VOICE--IT REALLY IS YOU!
IT'S ME, MENVIL! HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN?! CAPTAIN COLBERT-- WHAT'S IT BEEN, TWENTY YEARS?!
.....?
BUT WHAT IN THE MANY HELLS ARE YOU DOING AS A TEACHER?! HA HA HA! WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE TEACHING?!
THE FLAME SERPENT, A TEACHER? IT'S INSANE!

THIS MAN WAS CAPTAIN OF A...LET'S SAY, A VERY SPECIALIZED UNIT OF SOLDIERS.
HE BURNED EVERYTHING TO THE GROUND--NO MERCY FOR WOMEN OR CHILDREN!
AND, HE'S ALSO THE MAN...
WHO STOLE THE LIGHT FROM MY EYES!
MISS ZERBST, A QUESTION FOR YOU.
WOULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIRE LINE OF MAGIC?
PASSION AND DESTRUCTION ARE THE MAIN CHARACTER-ISTICS OF FIRE, SIR.

MAYBE MY EFFORT WAS FUTILE FROM THE BEGINNING.
I'VE SPENT TWENTY YEARS TRYING TO FORGET THAT WORD.
PASSION...AND DESTRUCTION. SO SAD THAT HALF OF OUR ASPECT IS LIMITED TO SOMETHING SO VIOLENT.
DASH
TAKE YOUR FRIENDS AND GO TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TOWER.

Le Familier de Zero Chevalier

ZERO'S
FAMILIAR
Chevalier

Chapter 15: The Ruby of Atonement – Part V

WOOSH
WOOSH
FWOO
FWOOOM
LUNGE!!
HAAH

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
TP
TP
TP
RRRRRR
CHEE
CHEE
YOU'RE BARELY MANAGING TO DODGE!
WHAT'S WRONG, CAPTAIN?! HAVING TROUBLE?!
PANT
PANT
I CAN BURN YOU HOWEVER YOU'D LIKE!
OOH, WHAT IS IT? WANT ME TO BURN YOU QUICKLY SO YOU DON'T SUFFER?
MENVIL... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
I CAN BARELY CONTAIN MYSELF... I WANT TO SMELL YOU BURNING!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU RUN! I CAN SEE THROUGH EVERY MOVE!
THERE'S NO-WHERE TO HIDE!

KNEEL
?!
I WANT YOU TO SURRENDER.
I VOWED THAT I'D NEVER KILL ANOTHER PERSON WITH MAGIC.
WHOA, DID YOU GO CRAZY WHILE I WAS GONE?
MAYBE *YOU* CAN'T SEE IT, BUT I CAN SEE THE OLD YOU, PLAIN AS DAY.
AND I ALSO KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE EVEN THE *SLIGHTEST CHANCE* OF BEATING ME.
IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, I'M ASKING YOU TO HEAR ME OUT. **YIELD.**
I'M BEGGING YOU.

S-SO...THE MAN I'VE BEEN CHASING FOR TWENTY YEARS IS ACTUALLY A GUTLESS COWARD?
A SPINELESS, BRAINLESS FOOL.
GRIP
I'LL ROAST YOU SLOWLY.
FOOOM
I'M GOING TO START FROM YOUR FINGERTIPS AND SAVOR EVERY MOMENT... YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE NEVER BORN!
TURN
SO THAT'S YOUR FINAL ANSWER? NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BEG?
.....

WHAT WAS THAT? YOU TRYING TO BRIGHTEN UP THE AREA OR SOMETHING?
VOOSH
LOOKS LIKE YOU FAILED, THOUGH! A FLAME THAT *WEAK* WON'T EVEN WORK AS A LIGHT SOURCE!!
FWOO
FLASH
FWOOOM

FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
I DEFENDED MYSELF FROM THE FLAMES, BUT...
I CAN'T BREATHE ...!!!
FWOOOO

A LARGE FIRE WILL BURN UP ALL THE OXYGEN SURROUNDING IT.
WOOOOOO
THAT'S WHY IT WAS VITAL TO FIND A WIDE-OPEN SPACE TO CAST, SO I COULD BE SURE THAT I WOULDN'T ACCIDENTALLY HARM MY STUDENTS...
IN THE END, YOU DIDN'T EVEN MANAGE TO BECOME A SNAKE...
VICE-CAPTAIN.
FSSsss
FSSS

SLASH
TH-THE CAPTAIN... HE...!
SSSSH
SSSSSH
JA
B!!
YOU ...!
GRIT
CREAK
AH!
WOOSH
NO...!!
YANK
YANK
IT'S STUCK ...!

FWOOSH!!
SHOVE
COFF
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
MR. COLBERT!

OH, NO...
THE WOUND IS SO DEEP. MY HEALING CAN'T FIX THE DAMAGE FAST ENOUGH...!
CLINK
SO...YOU WERE THE CAPTAIN OF THE THE ACADEMY'S EXPERI-MENTAL PLATOON?
NOD
YOU BAS-TARD...
TURN
HEY! WHAT THE HECK?!

I SEE.
WHY DID YOU DESTROY MY HOME?! ANSWER ME!
GRIT
STOP IT! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S SERIOUSLY HURT?!
DON'T MAKE HIM SPEAK!
I DON'T CARE! ANSWER THE QUESTION!!
I WAS... FOLLOWING ORDERS...
I WAS TOLD... THERE WAS AN OUTBREAK... IF I DIDN'T BURN THE VILLAGE... THE DISEASE WOULD SPREAD... MANY MORE WOULD DIE...
AND YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT?
GRIT
I DID... I ONLY LEARNED THE TRUTH... AFTER...
IT WAS... POLITICAL... A PROTESTANT HUNT...

I KNOW... I CAN NEVER BE FORGIVEN... I NEVER FORGOT... NOT FOR A MINUTE... I LEFT THE ARMY...
AND SWORE... I'D NEVER USE MY FLAMES... TO DESTROY... EVER AGAIN...
EVERYTHING MENVIL SAID... WAS TRUE...
I BURNED THEM ALL... WOMEN... CHILDREN... INNOCENT PEOPLE...
I'M JUST LIKE MENVIL...
I'VE BEEN WAITING TWENTY YEARS TO MEET YOU...
HAH HAH
CLENCH
DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES UP FOR IT?! THE PEOPLE YOU MURDERED WILL NEVER COME BACK!
RAISE
DON'T! PLEASE!!
COVER

AH!
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, YOU--
PLEASE, PUT YOUR SWORD AWAY.
HE'S DEAD.

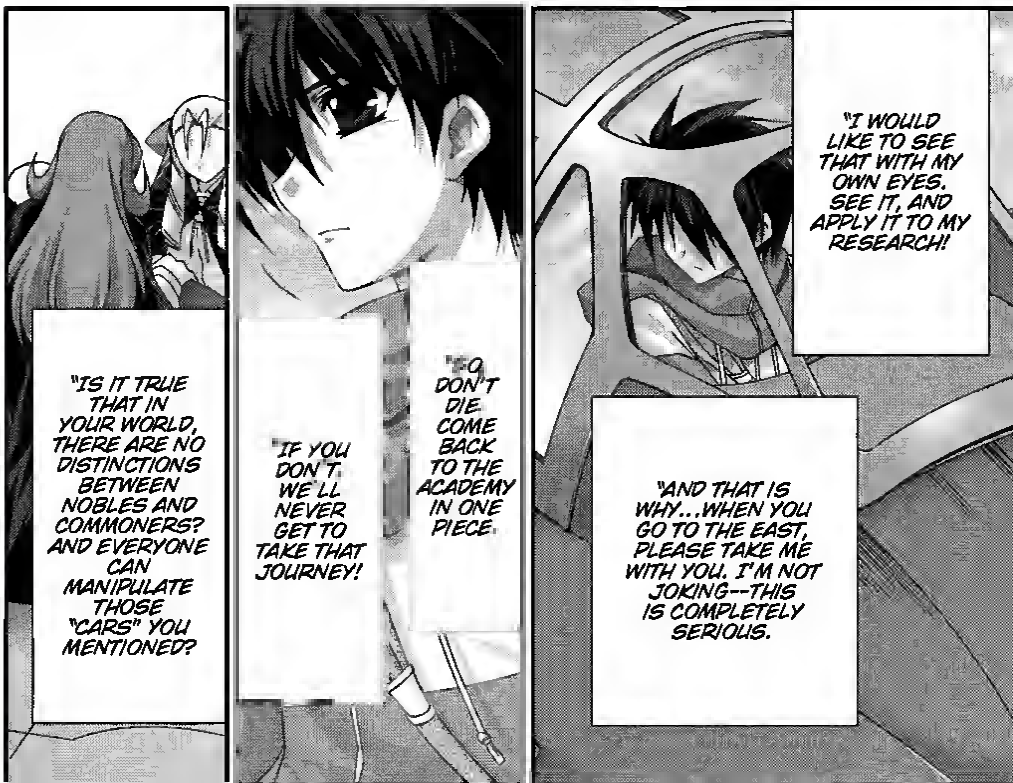
MR. COLBERT MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR ENEMY, BUT TODAY, HE'S ALSO OUR SAVIOR!
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU TO FORGIVE HIM...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HE LOST HIS LIFE SAVING YOURS!
BUT SAY ONE PRAYER FOR HIM, AT LEAST!
UGH...
TMP
THUNK
SSSHHH
!!
.....

IT'S A LETTER, FROM MR. COLBERT... SHOULD I READ IT TO YOU?
YEAH, PLEASE.
HEY, SAITO... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THIS INSTRUCTION MANUAL.
WHRR..
"NOW THEN, YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I'M WRITING YOU LIKE THIS. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I NEED TO ASK FOR A FAVOR.
"HELLO, SAITO! I HOPE MY INVENTIONS WERE USEFUL TO YOU! THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL!
"DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING TOO WEIRD!
"YOU ARE SO-- NO, NOT JUST YOU, BUT ALL THE STUDENTS THE ACADEMY--ARE TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO ME, SO BEING ABLE TO HELP YOU MAKES ME INCREDIBLY HAPPY.
HE CALLS IT HAPPY? JEEZ...
"THAT IS MY DREAM.
"I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH MORE THAN A TOY RIGHT NOW, BUT ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO TURN THIS TECHNOLOGY INTO A WONDERFUL ITEM FOR EVERYONE!
"A DREAM TO TURN THINGS THAT CAN NORMALLY ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH MAGIC INTO TECHNOLOGY THAT ANYONE CAN USE! YOU SAW HIM, RIGHT? MY HAPPY MISTER SNAKE?
"I'M ASKING YOU THIS BECAUSE I HAVE A DREAM.

"A LONG TIME AGO, I COMMITTED A TERRIBLE SIN.
"I WASN'T SURE WHETHER I SHOULD TELL YOU THIS, BUT NOW THAT I'M WRITING, I THINK I WANT TO.
"IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH I ACCOMPLISH, OR HOW MUCH GOOD I DO FOR OTHER PEOPLE... IT WILL NEVER MATCH THE BAD THINGS I'VE DONE.
"I'VE THROWN MYSELF INTO MY RESEARCH, THINKING THAT IT WOULD LET ME ATONE SOMEHOW... BUT LATELY I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING...
"I'LL NEVER TRULY BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I DID, NO MATTER WHAT I DO NOW.
"THE MOMENT YOU LOSE THAT, SOMETHING INSIDE YOU WILL BREAK.
DRIP
DRIP
"I DON'T WANT YOU TO BECOME LIKE ME.
"NEVER LET YOURSELF GET USED TO WAR, OR KILLING, OR DEATH.
"YOU MUST NEVER STOP FEELING PAIN IN THE FACE OF DEATH.
"BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU MUSTN'T GET USED TO IT.
"NOW, LISTEN. GOING FORWARD, YOU WILL FACE MANY TERRIBLE AND DISTURBING SITUATIONS. YOU'RE GOING TO WAR, AFTER ALL. PEOPLE AROUND YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.
"AND THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE YOU TO MAKE ME A PROMISE.

I'M SO, SO SORRY...FOR CALLING YOU A COWARD...
YOU PROTECTED ALL OF US...UNTIL THE VERY END.

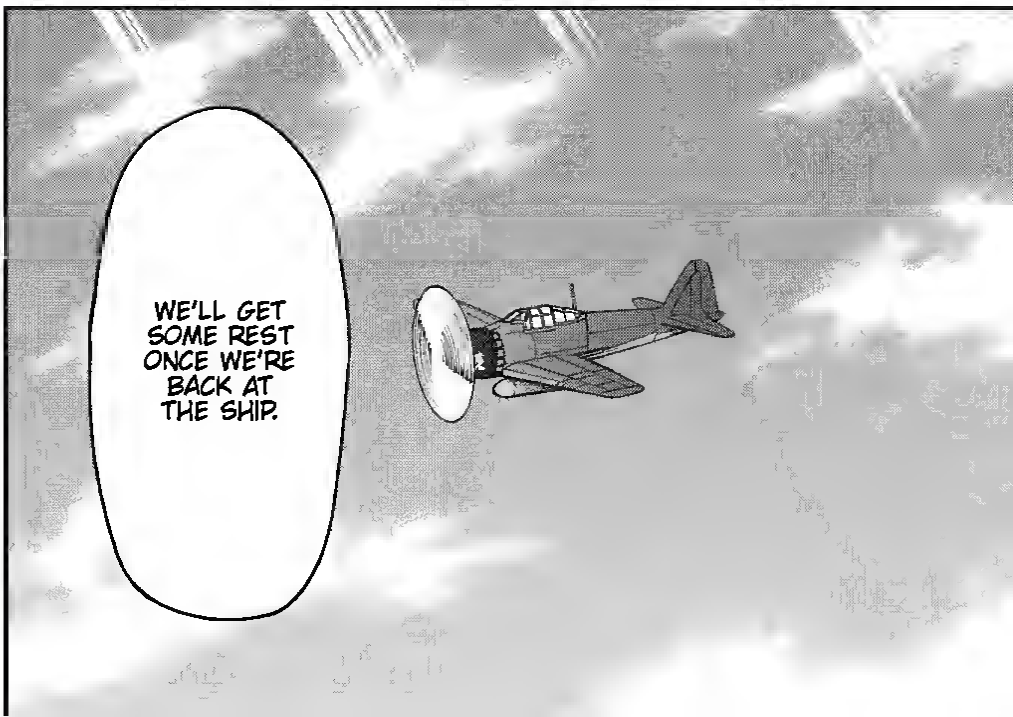
"NOW, ABOUT THAT FAVOR. YOU MENTIONED ONCE THAT YOU COME FROM ANOTHER WORLD, CORRECT?
"IN THAT WORLD, YOU HAVE GREAT METAL FLYING MACHINES THAT SAIL THE SKIES, AND MANY OTHER TECHNOLOGIES FLOURISH--THE LIKES OF WHICH HALKEGINIA HAS NEVER SEEN!


"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT WITH MY OWN EYES, SEE IT, AND APPLY IT TO MY RESEARCH!
"AND THAT IS WHY...WHEN YOU GO TO THE EAST, PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU. I'M NOT JOKING--THIS IS COMPLETELY SERIOUS.
"O DON'T DIE. COME BACK TO THE ACADEMY IN ONE PIECE.
"IF YOU DON'T WE'LL NEVER GET TO TAKE THAT JOURNEY!
"IS IT TRUE THAT IN YOUR WORLD, THERE ARE NO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN NOBLES AND COMMONERS? AND EVERYONE CAN MANIPULATE THOSE "CARS" YOU MENTIONED?

"AND THAT PEOPLE FROM YOUR WORLD HAVE ACTUALLY LANDED ON ITS MOON?! IF ALL THAT IS TRUE, WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE IT MUST BE! I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A WORLD LIKE THAT SOMEDAY."
...AND THAT'S IT.
WHAT A STRANGE PERSON.
HE WANTS TO EXPLORE YOUR WORLD?
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
SO SILLY.

I'M NOT...

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG DAY. YOU MUST BE TIRED, RIGHT?


WE'LL GET SOME REST ONCE WE'RE BACK AT THE SHIP.

Chapter 16: The Ruby of Atonement – Part VI

THE NAVAL PORT OF ROSYTH
BY USING THE VOID MAGIC SPELL ILLUSION, WE MANAGED TO DRAW THE ENEMY FORCES TO THE NORTHERN HARBOR TOWN OF DARDANELLES INSTEAD, AND OUR 60,000 TROOPS BROKE THROUGH ALBION'S DEFENSES EASILY.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A WEEK SINCE THE ALLIED FORCES OF TRISTAIN AND GERMANIA CAPTURED THIS SMALL HARBOR CITY IN ALBION.
RUSTLE

GLANCE
I DON'T HAVE A NIGHTGOWN WITH ME, SO I HAVE TO SLEEP NAKED UNDER MY MANTLE...
ALL RIGHT, SAITO. LET'S GO TO BED.
IT'S A LITTLE EMBAR-RASSING... BUT I CAN'T SLEEP IF I'M WEARING SOMETHING UNCOMFORT-ABLE.
COME HERE.
PAT
PAT
THROB
OH, SAITO...

THE THREAT OF WAR IS ALWAYS CLOSE IN THIS WORLD...
BUT SAITO DIDN'T GROW UP HERE. THE SOLDIERS WHO DIED WERE CLOSE TO HIS AGE... HE PROBABLY SAW HIMSELF IN THEM.
I... I WANT TO COMFORT SAITO.
STAND
BUT... HOW? WHAT DO I DO?
GRIP
I GUESS IT'S INEVIT-ABLE.
POF
IT'S DIFFICULT WHEN IT HAPPENS RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
EVEN THOUGH THEY DIED IN THE NAME OF DUTY...
CHEER UP.
YEAH.

I'M SURE THIS WILL SOUND VERY CRUEL TO YOU, BUT...
SEEING YOU SO DOWN IS EVEN SADDER TO ME THAN THOSE PEOPLE DYING.
I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO ME. TRULY, THOUGH, IT'S ALL DEPRESSING.
DEATH MAKES ME SAD, BUT...
THEY DIED HONORABLY IN BATTLE. TO FEEL SAD ABOUT SUCH A NOBLE SACRIFICE IS WRONG...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?!

OF COURSE I'M NOT SERIOUS!
BUT I HAVE TO GET SERIOUS! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR!
I...
DYING IN THE LINE OF DUTY. DYING FOR HONOR.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEIR NAMES...
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW IT MUST HAVE FELT...
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO KILLING...!
SAITO...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS?!
HOW DO I COMFORT A BOY WHO'S THIS HURT...?

IF I WERE THAT MAID...
IMAGINE
ぽわわわーん...
AAH! WHAT AM I THINK-ING?!
Mr. Saitooo~♥
GRRR!!
BUT...IF THAT'S ALL IT TAKES...
EVEN I CAN PULL THAT OFF!
FWOO

I WANT TO MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER...
UNDER THIS MANTLE, I'M... NAKED.
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
MAYBE JUST HUGGING HIM ISN'T ENOUGH...?
I'M NOT EVEN WEARING UNDERWEAR...
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
FLUSTER!!

NO, NO, NO, LOUISE!!
IF I LET HIM SEE ME NAKED, WE'LL HAVE TO GET MARRIED! THOSE ARE THE RULES!
AM I EVER GOING TO GET MARRIED? TO WHO, MY FAMILIAR?!
IT WOULD BE VULGAR AND INAPPROPRIATE TO SHOW YOUR NAKED BODY TO SOMEONE YOU AREN'T MARRIED TO!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S A COMMONER FROM ANOTHER WORLD--IT'S RIDICULOUS!
FRET
わた

DOES SAITO EVEN LOVE ME, ANYWAY? I MEAN, HE TOLD ME HE DOES. BUT I'M ALMOST POSITIVE HE ONLY SAID THAT BECAUSE HE WAS AFTER MY BODY. BUT...IS MY BODY EVEN THAT ATTRACTIVE? I HAVE NO IDEA! I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW...
AARGH, ENOUGH ALREADY! STOP BEING A MORON, LOUISE!!
FRET
わた
.....
UGH...
GRIP
SSSH..

WOOOSH
WH-WHAT THE--?!
GRAB
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
FLAP

WHA--?
It's not possible!
H-HOW?!
FLAP
OH, HEY! IT'S YOU!
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT--
Ahem!
W-W-WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, SO THERE!!
ACK!!
SHOVE

UNTIL THE REPLACEMENT DRAGONS ARRIVE, YOUR SQUAD WILL ACT AS LADY VALLIÈRE'S PERSONAL GUARD.
DISMISSED.
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE DEAD... IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU'RE ALL OKAY!
DID THE ENEMY PATCH YOU UP, OR SOMETHING?
PLEASE, TAKE GOOD CARE OF US.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE SERVING UNDER YOUR COMMAND FOR A WHILE.
TO BE HONEST, NONE OF US CAN REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER WE WERE SHOT DOWN. EVERYTHING UP UNTIL TODAY IS A BLANK.
SHAKE
SHAKE

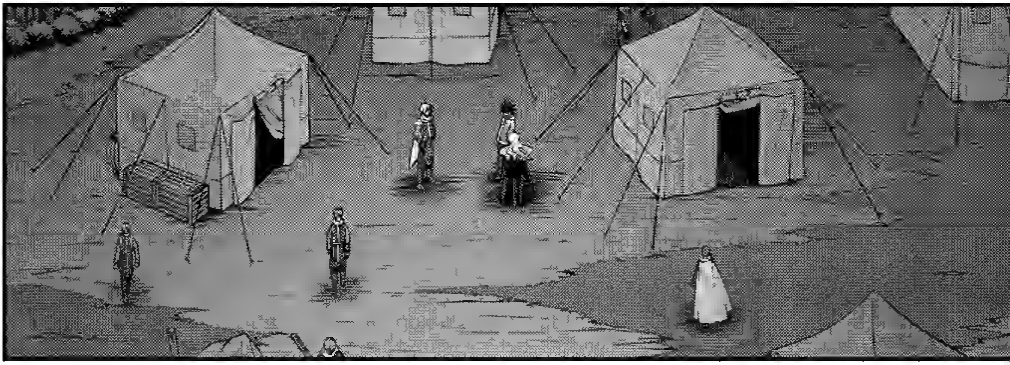
WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS ON THE BACK OF A WIND DRAGON WITH MY SQUAD ALL AROUND ME.
I LET THE DRAGON CHOOSE OUR FLIGHT PATH, AND SOMEHOW WE ENDED UP HERE IN ROSYTH.

WHOA, YOU LOST AN ENTIRE WEEK?
YES...
BUT I'M JUST GLAD I GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

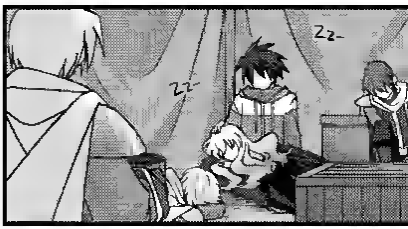
I'M RENE FONCK, OF TRISTAIN'S DRAGON KNIGHTS.
AND I'M SAITO HIRAGA.

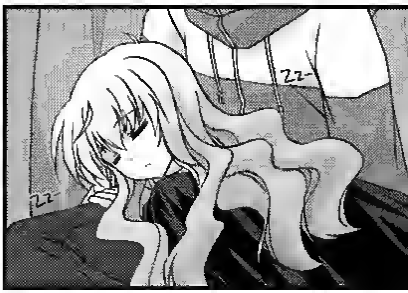
SHA
I TOTALLY FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF WHEN WE FIRST MET. I GUESS IT BOTHERED ME SO MUCH THAT I COULDN'T DIE WITHOUT COMING BACK!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I WANT TO CELEBRATE TONIGHT!
Ha ha ha!
WHAT A STRANGE NAME.



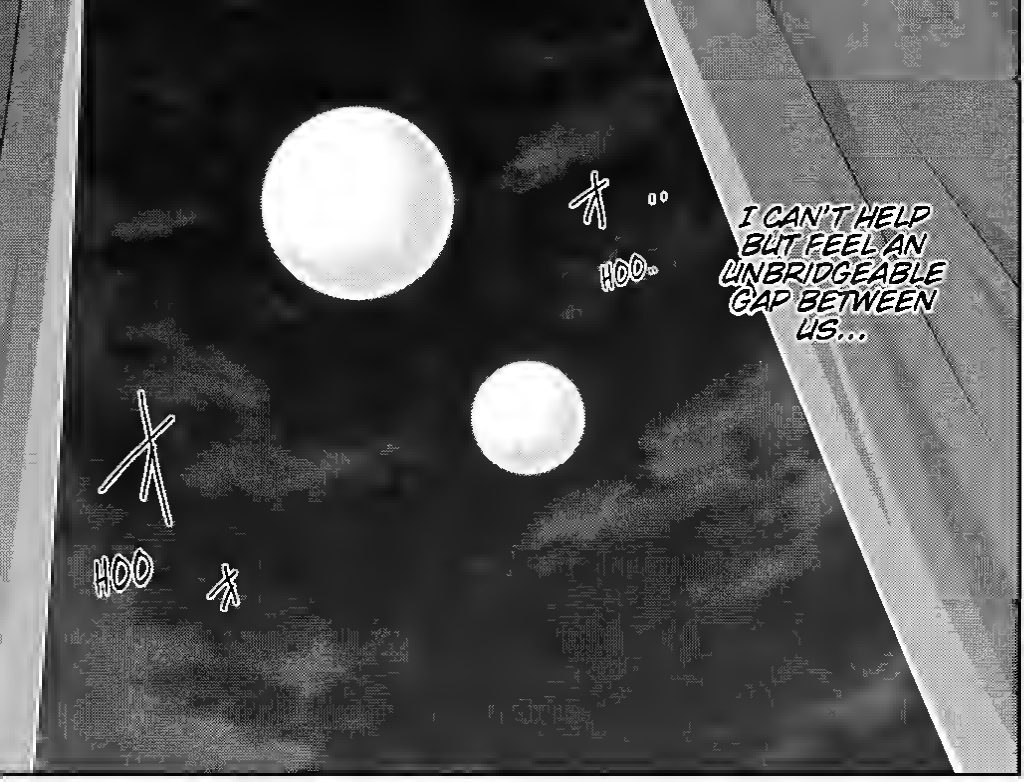
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE THAT DOWN OVER US.
IS IT REALLY THAT WEIRD?


Zz-
Zz-

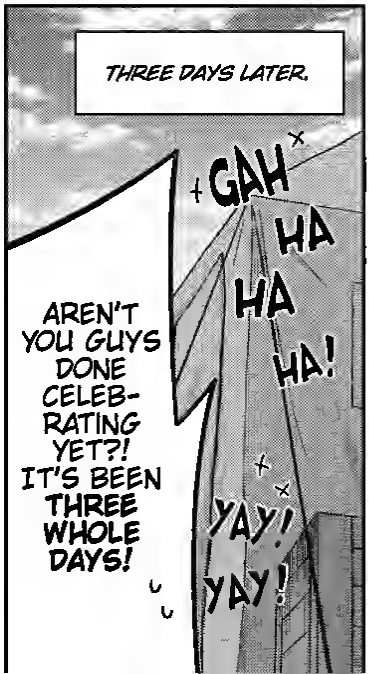

Zz-
Zz-

WELL, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR. IF YOU LET YOURSELF GET SAD OVER EVERY LITTLE THING, YOU'LL NEVER STOP BEING DEPRESSED.
CHUG
WE COMPLETED THE MISSION AND PROTECTED OUR HONOR.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT'S CRAZY.
MAYBE YOU DON'T GET IT BECAUSE YOU'RE A COMMONER... BUT TO A NOBLE, HONOR IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN LIFE.
WE WERE ORDERED TO MAKE SURE YOU MADE IT TO DARDANELLES SAFELY, NO MATTER THE COST. AND WE WERE SUCCESSFUL...
IF MY LOYALTY IS RECOGNIZED, THEN MY HOUSE NAME WILL BE ELEVATED, AND EVEN IF I DIE, MY HONOR LIVES ON.
WHICH MEANS THAT IN A WAY, WE PROTECTED THE ENTIRE ROYAL ARMY WITH OUR LIVES. YOU CAN'T GET MUCH HIGHER IN TERMS OF LOYALTY TO QUEEN AND COUNTRY.
BUT...
HOW CAN YOU NOBLES TALK SO CASUALLY ABOUT DYING?
IF YOU'RE DEAD, IT'S ALL OVER.
.....
SNORE

HE'S FIGHTING FOR HONOR... SO WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR?
LEAN
REALLY?
HE GOES ON AND ON... AND THEN FALLS ASLEEP ON ME?
DEATH MAKES ME SAD, BUT...
THEY DIED HONORABLY IN BATTLE.
TO FEEL SAD ABOUT SUCH A NOBLE SACRIFICE IS WRONG...
I GUESS THE BIGGEST REASON... IS BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT LOUISE.
FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS.
A NOBLE AND A COMMONER...


I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL AN UNBRIDGEABLE GAP BETWEEN US...
HOO..
HOO

HA HA HA HA
TA-DA!!
HAAA!
FOR YOUR BRAVE DEEDS, I NOW PRESENT YOU WITH THIS MEDAL OF HONOR~!!

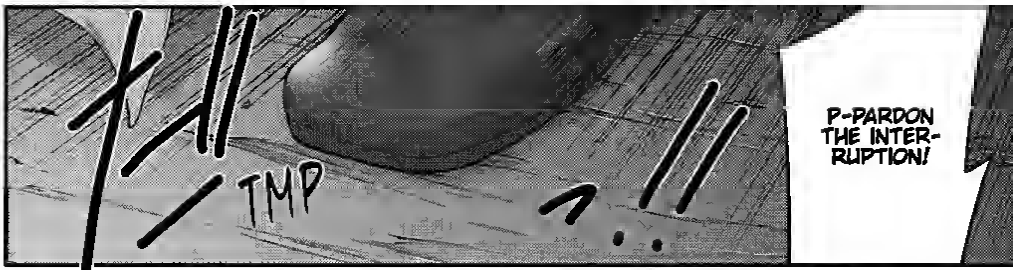

THREE DAYS LATER.
GAH
HA HA HA!
AREN'T YOU GUYS DONE CELEB-RATING YET?! IT'S BEEN THREE WHOLE DAYS!
YAY! YAY!

AREN'T THOSE MY PANTIES?!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
HOLD ON A SECOND!!

TA-DA!!
OH MAN, THESE ARE THE BEST MEDALS EVER!
WHA?!
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
hic
TH-THERE'S A WHOLE B-BUNCH OF 'EM OVER HERE!
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
I HATE YOU ALL, YOU JERKS!
YOU GUYS ARE THE WORST!
SLAM
WHAM
AND WHY ARE YOU GETTING INVOLVED IN ALL THIS?! HUH?!
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
JUST A D-DISOBE-DIENT MONGREL!
BAD DOG! BAD DOG! BAD DOG!!
YOU'RE A FAMILIAR! A LOWLY FAMILIAR!

!!
FLUSTER
A FAMILIAR WHO'S ALSO A LOVER... ISN'T THAT IDEAL FOR A MAGE?
OH, YEAH. YOU'RE HER FAMILIAR, RIGHT?
Ha ha ha!
WE'RE NOT LOVERS!
YOU'RE ALL SUCH IDIOTS!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING!
POP!
YOU WERE WEARING NOTHING BUT YOUR MANTLE AND WERE DRAPED ALL OVER HIM...
BUT WHAT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, WHEN WE FIRST GOT BACK?
FRET FRET
TH-THAT WASN'T ...!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
IF WE HADN'T BEEN INTER-RUPTED, WHAT WOULD'VE ...!

WE CAN'T HELP IT! SURE, WE'RE NOBLES, BUT WE'RE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP IN RANK, AFTER ALL!
SERIOUSLY, CAN'T YOU TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?! IS THAT ALL YOU BOYS EVER THINK ABOUT?!
HOW VULGAR!
Ha
ha
ha
ha
ha!
YOU LOT ARE THE WORST!
COMPARED TO THE STUDENTS AT THE MAGIC ACADEMY, THESE GUYS HAVE MUCH LOWER SOCIAL STATUS...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO EASY TO HANG AROUND WITH.


TMP
P-PARDON THE INTER-RUPTION!

I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE D-DRAGON KNIGHTS BATTALION HEAD-QUARTERS!

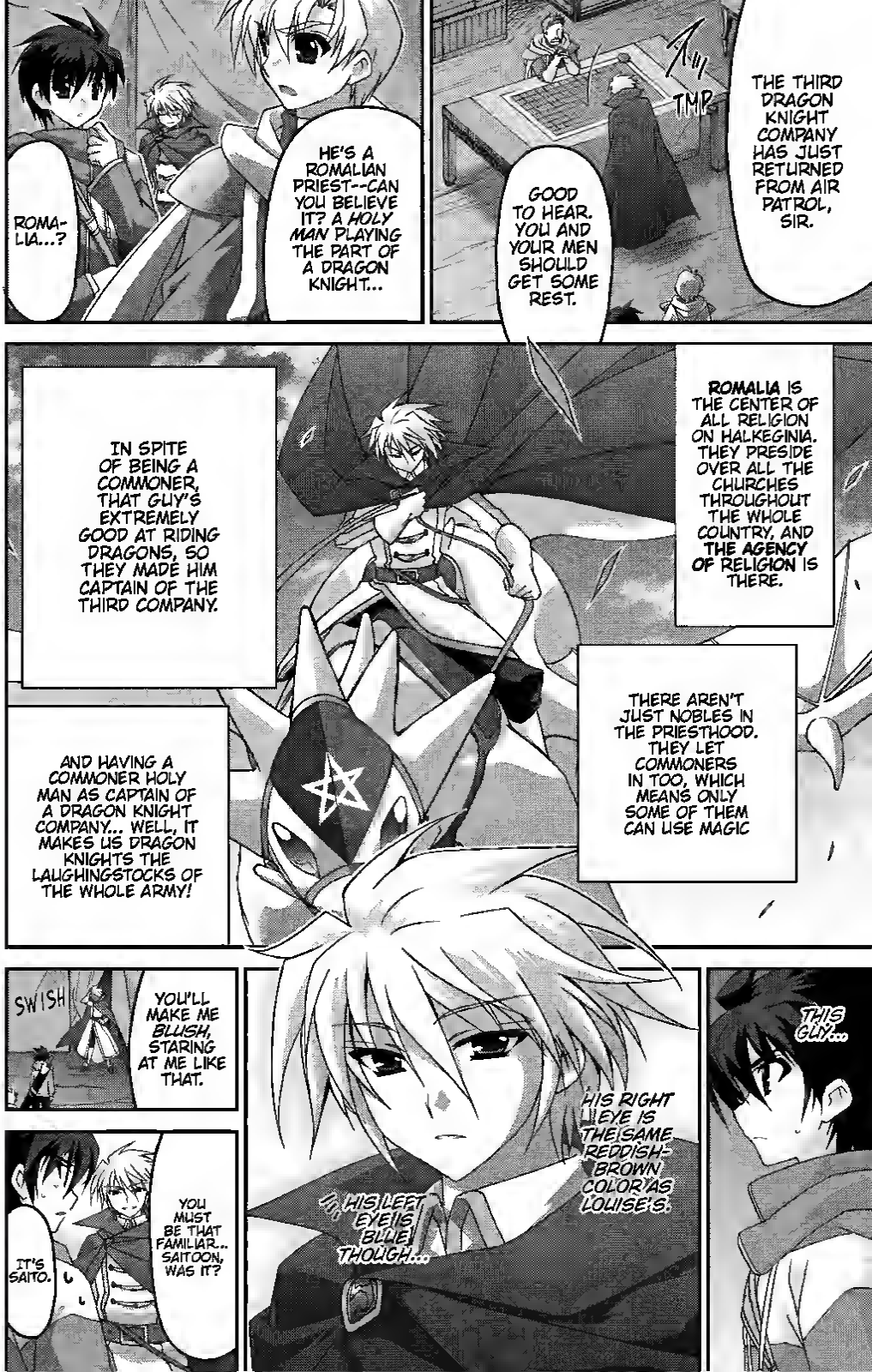
Chapter 17: Fairy

SO I'LL NEED TO GO OVER HOW YOU MANAGED TO RETURN ONCE MORE.
I FORGOT TO WRITE UP THE REPORT...
WE TAGGED ALONG, SINCE THEY'RE OUR GUARDS...
EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE ALREADY SAID THEY CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER BEING SHOT DOWN, THEY'RE STILL ASKED TO GO OVER THE SAME OLD STORY...
I STILL CAN'T TELL IF THIS WAS A DREAM OR SOMETHING REAL...
SO I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD EVEN BRING IT UP, BUT--
?
ER... UM...

Y-YES, SIR! HERE IS MY REPORT, SIR!
WHAT IS IT? KEEP YOUR REPORT BRIEF AND TO THE POINT.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
I TRIED TO MOVE, BUT I COULDN'T-- MY BODY WOULDN'T RESPOND.
AND FOR A WHILE, I COULDN'T MOVE AT ALL--I JUST LAY ON THE GROUND.
AFTER FALLING OUT OF THE SKY, I WAS THROWN FROM MY DRAGON'S BACK...
RUSTLE
I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS, AND I REMEMBER THINKING, "THIS IS IT, I'M GOING TO DIE."
BUT THAT'S WHEN I SAW HER.

A... BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
SPARKLE
キラ
キラ
SPARKLE
WITH LONG, GOLDEN-BLONDE HAIR...
HER ENTIRE BODY SEEMED TO SPARKLE...

A FAIRY...?
SHE WAS A FAIRY!
I MEAN... I THINK SHE WAS A FAIRY, LIKE FROM ANCIENT TIMES, SIR!
UNLIKE SPIRITS, FAIRIES WERE LEGENDARY LIVING CREATURES.
APPEAR
TELL ME--WAS HER BLONDE HAIR MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN MINE?
YOU REALLY WANT ME TO SAY YOUR HAIR IS NICER? ROMALIANS, JEEZ.
RUSTLE
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LEARNED MY NAME YET?
IT'S JULIO CHESARE.


THE THIRD DRAGON KNIGHT COMPANY HAS JUST RETURNED FROM AIR PATROL, SIR.
GOOD TO HEAR. YOU AND YOUR MEN SHOULD GET SOME REST.
HE'S A ROMALIAN PRIEST--CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? A HOLY MAN PLAYING THE PART OF A DRAGON KNIGHT...
ROMA-LIA...?
ROMALIA IS THE CENTER OF ALL RELIGION ON HALKEGINIA. THEY PRESIDE OVER ALL THE CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE COUNTRY, AND THE AGENCY OF RELIGION IS THERE.
IN SPITE OF BEING A COMMONER, THAT GUY'S EXTREMELY GOOD AT RIDING DRAGONS, SO THEY MADE HIM CAPTAIN OF THE THIRD COMPANY.
THERE AREN'T JUST NOBLES IN THE PRIESTHOOD. THEY LET COMMONERS IN TOO, WHICH MEANS ONLY SOME OF THEM CAN USE MAGIC
AND HAVING A COMMONER HOLY MAN AS CAPTAIN OF A DRAGON KNIGHT COMPANY... WELL, IT MAKES US DRAGON KNIGHTS THE LAUGHINGSTOCKS OF THE WHOLE ARMY!
SWISH
YOU'LL MAKE ME BLUSH, STARING AT ME LIKE THAT.
YOU MUST BE THAT FAMILIAR... SAITOON, WAS IT?
IT'S SAITO.
HIS LEFT EYE IS BLUE, THOUGH...
HIS RIGHT EYE IS THE SAME REDDISH-BROWN COLOR AS LOUISE'S.
THIS GUY...

I'M JULIO CHESARÉ, A ROMALIAN PRIEST.
HMM? AND YOU ARE...?
YOU MUST BE MISS VALLIÈRE!
THE RUMORS WERE TRUE-- YOU'RE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS I EXPECTED!
SMILE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SHOCK
Gaah--HRRKG!!
KISS

Y-YOU T-TERRIBLE MAN...
GAH G-GANNNGH
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
THIS IS WHY ROMA-LIANS ARE SUCH A PAIN...
SHOULD A PRIEST REALLY BE HITTING ON WOMEN LIKE THAT?
TURN
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!
I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM ROMALIA AND RISKED MY LIFE IN THIS WAR, SO I COULD DISCOVER NEW FORMS OF BEAUTY...
THE SOLE REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE... WAS TO MEET SOMEONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU!

YOU SAID YOU SAW A FAIRY, CORRECT? CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU WERE BROUGHT DOWN?
I THINK... WE'D FLOWN ABOUT AN HOUR INTO THE CONTINENT...
HRMM...
SO, NEAR SOUTH GOTHA...?
AHEM
FWOO...
YOUR REPORTS ARE FINISHED. IF YOU HAVE THIS MUCH FREE TIME, GO...TEND TO THE DRAGONS OR SOMETHING.

WOOO...
STUPID LOUISE... "OH, YOU'RE A T-TERRIBLE MAN," SHE SAYS...
BLANK
GETTING ALL FLUSTERED FROM ONE CHEESY COMPLIMENT.
HMPH
I MEAN, I CONFESSED TO HER FOR REAL. I TOLD HER I LOVE HER...
Ah!
HANG ON...!
DIDN'T SHE CALL IT A "SIGN OF MY LOYALTY," OR SOMETHING?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, EVEN THOUGH I MADE THAT BIG LOVE SPEECH TO HER...

LOYALTY.
NOT ROMANTIC AT ALL.
CONFESSED TO HER BUT NEVER GOT A RESPONSE.
DIDN'T RESPOND BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY BACK.
SHE DUMPED ME, AND I DIDN'T EVER REALIZE!
CRUSHED!!
SO, ALL THIS TIME... I'D ALREADY BEEN...D-D-DUMPED?!
DUN, DUN DUUUN
THAT DAY, SHE TOLD ME I COULD TOUCH ONE PLACE ON HER BODY...
WHICH SEEMS MORE LIKE A DOG BEING GIVEN A TREAT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT. I JOINED THE WAR EFFORT AND I'M RISKING MY LIFE... AND SHE JUST GOES AND DUMPS ME?!
SHOULDN'T SHE AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING LIKE "I LIKE YOU, TOO! LET'S START AS FRIENDS!" EVEN IF SHE WAS JUST LETTING ME DOWN GENTLY?
AAAARG!!
BLANK
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
ARGH!!
T.M.P

PLAYING WITH A MAN'S HEART...IS A GRAVE OFFENSE.
HER PUNISHMENT? SILENT TREATMENT.
DA-DAN
TURN
THAT GUY WAS AWFULLY INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE FAIRY...
COULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HOLE IN THE DRAGON KNIGHTS' MEMORIES?
TMP
TMP
HEY, SAITO? YOU KNOW THAT FAIRY THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER...?

TMP すた
TMP すた
STAND
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
SAITO! STOP RIGHT THERE...!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ESCORTING YOUR MASTER BACK TO HER TENT, REMEMBER?!
GRRRR!!
HOW DARE YOU IGNORE ME!
GRIT
GRIT
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I'VE BEEN ABOUT YOU?
YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVE ME...

IRK
FWIP
I GUESS IT'S PRETTY CHILDISH OF ME TO IGNORE HER, JUST BECAUSE SHE D-D-DUMPED ME...
FINE. LET'S DO IT.
GRIND
SH-SHE... TALKING LIKE THAT TO THE GUY SHE DUMPED...
WHAT A HORRIBLE PERSON!
TURN
DON'T YOU MEAN, "ALLOW ME TO WALK YOU TO YOUR TENT, MISTRESS"?
"ALLOW ME TO...?" FORGET IT.
YOU CAN STAY THERE FOREVER FOR ALL I CARE.

TMP
T.M.P
TMP
SSSSSSH
TMP
TMP
SNIFF
YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE LEAVING ME HERE! COME BACK THIS INSTANT!
HE'S SO SELFISH...
I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT EVERY-THING-- LIVING UP TO THE QUEEN'S EXPECTA-TIONS... BEING HONORABLE AND BRAVE...
WHEN WE'RE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
BUT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PUSHED ME FURTHER THAN ANYONE-- BY GIVING IN TO YOUR DESIRE.
I MEAN, IT WAS FINE... NICE, EVEN... AND AFTER YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME I FIGURED IT WAS OKAY IF WE JUST...
BUT NOW, I'M JUST GLAD WE DIDN'T GO ANY FURTHER!
SHAKE
SHAKE

IF YOU TRULY LOVED ME, YOU WOULDN'T TREAT ME LIKE THIS!
"I LOVE YOU," YOU SAID! YOU LIAR!
I HATE LIARS.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
THAT MAID AND ALL THOSE OTHER GIRLS... YOU MAKE MOVES LIKE THAT ON EVERY GIRL YOU SEE, DON'T YOU?
I HATE YOU.

Chapter 18: The Priest of Romalia
"I LOVE YOU," YOU SAID! YOU LIAR!
THAT MAID AND ALL THOSE OTHER GIRLS...
YOU MAKE MOVES LIKE THAT ON EVERY GIRL YOU SEE, DON'T YOU?
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
I HATE YOU.

Le Familier de Zero Chevalier

ZERO'S
FAMILIAR
Chevalier

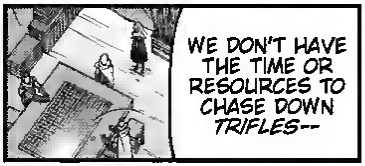
HARBOR CITY ROSYTH
WOOOOO
WE NEED TO ADVANCE! WE ONLY HAVE PROVISIONS TO LAST FOUR MORE WEEKS!
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
SOUTH GOTHA IS THE FORMER ALBION CAPITAL, AND CURRENTLY A MAJOR TOURIST DESTINATION. IF WE TAKE IT, WE CAN USE IT AS A FOOTHOLD TO MOVE ON AND CAPTURE LONDINIUM.
AND NATURALLY, SHOULD THE ENEMY THROW THEIR MAIN FORCE AT US, WE'LL HAVE OUR DECISIVE BATTLE THEN AND THERE.
WHAM
WE BROUGHT OUR MEN HERE WITH THE PROMISE THAT THE WAR WOULD BE OVER BY THE PENTECOST OF OUR GREAT ANCESTOR BRIMIR. IF WE CAN'T KEEP THAT PROMISE, TROOP MORALE WILL FALL SEVERELY!
KNOCK KNOCK
YES?

LADY-IN-WAITING TO HER ROYAL MAJESTY, LA VALLIÈRE.
IT'S ME...
STEP
OH, MISS ZERO!
BUT... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? OH, IS IT...
YOUR SUCCESSFUL MISSION AT DARDANELLES WAS CERTAINLY WORTHY OF DECORATION. I SHALL PUT IN A REQUEST WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY ON YOUR BEHALF.
N-NO, I'M NOT HERE TO ASK FOR A MEDAL.
IT'S ABOUT THE DRAGON KNIGHTS WHO RETURNED FROM THE DEAD... THOUGH WE'RE OBVIOUSLY VERY HAPPY THEY'VE RETURNED, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S RATHER STRANGE?
……?

THEY RETURNED TO US, COMPLETELY UNSCATHED, MORE THAN A WEEK AFTER BEING SHOT DOWN...
WITH NO MEMORY OF THE TIME THAT PASSED.

WHAT IF THERE'S A SECRET HIDDEN THERE...
ONE THAT COULD TURN THE TIDE OF THE WAR!
Ha
ha
OH, WHAT A CONSI-DERATE FAIRY!
ha
ha!
ha
ACCORDING TO THEIR REPORT, THEY MAY HAVE SEEN A **FAIRY** IN THE SOUTH GOTHA AREA. THAT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THEIR MIRACULOUS RETURN.

Ah!
THOUGH I AGREE WHAT HAPPENED WAS INDEED MIRACULOUS, I DOUBT IT COULD HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE WAR...


WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR RESOURCES TO CHASE DOWN *TRIFLES*--

WAIT A MOMENT... SOUTH GOTHA, WAS IT?
HMM...

BUT, AS IT HAPPENS, THERE'S SOMETHING I WAS HOPING TO LOOK INTO. WILL YOU TAKE ON THIS TASK FOR ME?
THESE GUYS WANTED TO ASK US SOMETHING...
WHY'D YOU HEAD BACK TO THE COMMAND TENT SO SUDDENLY?
TP
TP
SIGH...
TP
TP
Hah
IT'S LIKE WATCHING A PRINCESS AND HER SERVANT.
TURN
GLARE

IT'S JUST A RUMOR WE HEARD, BUT... IS IT TRUE THAT YOU TWO ARE RESEARCHERS FROM THE ACADEMY?
THE ACADE-MY?
TIP
ACTUALLY, WE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU GUYS ABOUT SOMETHING...
Ah?
AND...WAS YOUR FLYING MACHINE MADE AT THE ACADEMY, TOO?
WE HEARD THAT OUR LAST ASSIGNMENT WAS ACTUALLY A DIVERSION-- SET OFF THE NEWEST MAGICAL WEAPONS AND DRAW THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION.
VVRRRR
STOP
THAT'S NOT IT.
WE AREN'T ACADEMY RESEARCHERS.
I AM A LADY-IN-WAITING, IN DIRECT SERVICE OF HER ROYAL MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

SW SH
HUH?
TA-DA!!
WE'RE MEMBERS OF THE ZERO ORGANIZATION, A DIVISION DIRECTLY UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, FOCUSED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS.
TP
LISTEN UP! THIS IS A TOP SECRET ORGANIZATION, OKAY?!
YOU MUSTN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT TO ANYONE!
THE WEAPONS THEY DEVELOP AT THE ACADEMY ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON! THEY'RE THAT AMAZING!
POINT
BUT IF ANY OF YOU BREATHE A WORD ABOUT THIS TO ANYONE, YOU'LL ALL BE EXECUTED!
U-UNDERSTOOD!

WHISPER
WHEN THE HECK DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT CRAZY STORY...?
FWISH
TP
TP
TMP
TMP
THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT HER MAJESTY TOLD US TO SAY IN HER ORDERS!
THE FACT THAT WE HAVE VOID ON OUR SIDE IS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED, AND ONLY A SELECT GROUP OF OFFICIALS KNOW ABOUT IT--I WAS TOLD TO USE THAT EXPLANATION IF ANYONE ASKS QUESTIONS.
JEEZ, YOU SHOULD'VE LET ME KNOW SOONER!
POINT
I WOULD'VE SPREAD THAT RUMOR FOR YOU SUPER QUICK!
YEAH, SURE. YOU KNOW YOU'RE A TERRIBLE ACTOR, RIGHT?
NOT TO MENTION AN IDIOT.
TP
TP
Hmph.

WOOOO...
KRRRRR...
WHAT THE HECK...? WHY'S SHE IN SUCH A ROTTEN MOOD?!
DASH
HOLD ON!
MR. CHESARÉ...
I NEED YOU TO TAKE ME ON A FLIGHT.
CHOMP
CHOMP

AH! TO BE OF USE TO SUCH A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY... I PRAISE MY LUCK FOR GIVING ME SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY!
WHERE EXACTLY WOULD YOU LIKE TO FLY WITH ME?
H-HEY, LOUISE!
YO, LOUISE!
IF YOU NEED TO FLY SOMEWHERE, WHY DON'T WE USE MY ZERO FIGHTER?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING SOME POMPOUS--I MEAN, THIS ROMALIAN OR WHATEVER PRIEST GUY INSTEAD?
FLIP
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO GO WITH YOU.
YOU'RE STUPID, UNKIND, AND THOUGHTLESS!

A-ALSO! ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS GROSS, PERVERTED THINGS!
Y-YOU THINK ABOUT THAT STUFF ALL THE TIME, AND IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER WHO IT'S WITH!
FRET
FRET
OTHER THAN BEING STUPID, NONE OF THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH BEING ABLE TO FLY.
HUFF
!
THEN ALLOW ME TO BE BRUTALLY HONEST FOR A MOMENT!
IF I'M GOING TO RIDE BEHIND A BOY, THEN I'D MUCH PREFER AN ATTRACTIVE ONE!!
POINT
W-W-WH-WHAT?!
DU-DUUN!!
OH DEAR, WAS THAT JEALOUSY I JUST HEARD?!
ARE YOU A MORON? MAYBE YOU'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD.
GRRRRR
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Y--
YOU ...!!
RRR

WOOSH
THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, MISS VALLIÈRE.
WAIT, I'M COMING!
DASH
GRIP
H.O.P

NYAH!
FLAP
WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH HER ATTI-TUDE?!
Eyah!
SWOOSH
TREMBLE
WOOOOOSH
Guh-- guh-- guh..

WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH HER?!
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO NASTY!
An' I'm sayin' that somethin' didn't seem right! Maybe I'm just imaginin' things, but...
SWOOSH
Whoa, partner! Yer goin' through a nasty rough patch right now, ain't ya?
But somethin' 'bout all this is rubbin' me the wrong way...
Yer not listenin' to a word I'm sayin', are ya?
WOOSH
KRRRR...
Ah well, ain't my problem.

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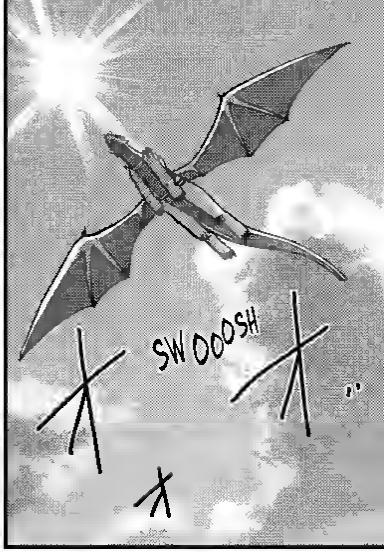
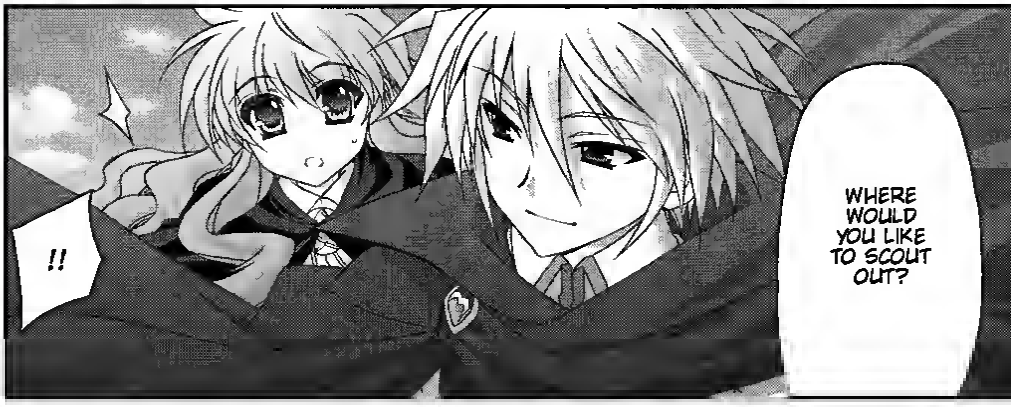

SWOOSH


!!
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SCOUT OUT?

WOULDN'T THIS NORMALLY BE A JOB FOR A FAMILIAR?
THOUGH IT'S ALSO NOT THE SORT OF MISSION ONE WOULD NORMALLY SEND AN IMPORTANT PERSON ON--LIKE AN ACADEMY RESEARCHER.

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS ON A SCOUTING MISSION?
IT WOULD BE OBVIOUS, EVEN TO A CHILD! IT IS BY FAR THE MOST LIKELY MISSION FOR A SINGLE UNIT, AFTER ALL.

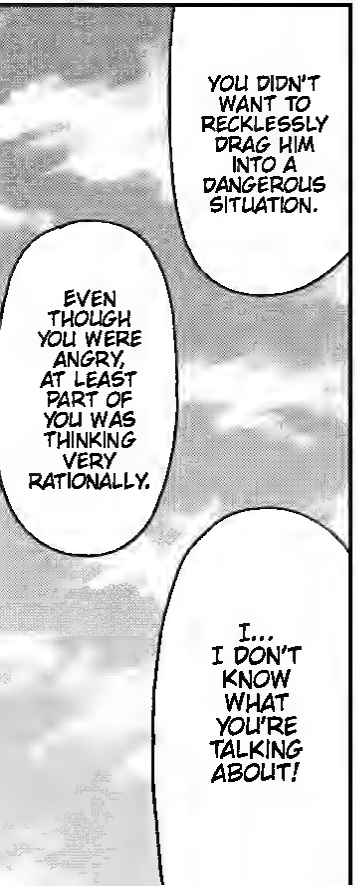
THEY WANT TO SEE JUST HOW USEFUL THE MAGIC WEAPON I POSSESS IS...
THEY PROBABLY INTEND TO THROW ME INTO A LONG CHAIN OF DANGEROUS TASKS...
CLUTCH
THE HIGHER-UPS ARE TESTING ME.
WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME, ALL THEY THINK IS "HOW CAN WE USE HER."
I'M NOT LOUISE FRANÇOIS AT ALL... ONLY THE VOID.
WOOOSH
EVEN IF MY POWER IS UNIQUE, LEGENDARY... IN THE ARMY, IN MY NATION, I'M JUST ANOTHER COG.
SLOWLY BUT SURELY I'M BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND...

SO...
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
I'M USING THE VOID TO GET BACK AT MY FAMILY AND CLASSMATES WHO TEASED ME FOR ALL THOSE YEARS...
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I'M NO BETTER THAN THEY ARE.
Oh!
SORRY! THE CITY OF SOUTH GOTHA, PLEASE!
UM... JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, WHY DID YOU COME HERE? ROMALIA ISN'T EVEN TRISTAIN'S ALLY, AFTER ALL.
HE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM MUCH LIKE A SOLDIER...
AH, THE OLD CAPITOL. I'VE HEARD IT'S A BEAUTIFUL METROPOLIS.
I DON'T THINK I COULD BRING MYSELF TO DESTROY A PLACE LIKE THAT.

WE'VE GOT A VOLUNTEER ARMY, MAKING IT HARD TO ALLY WITH ANYONE! REPUBLICANISM IS PRETTY MUCH A NIGHTMARE FOR ANY NATION.
AND DESPITE BEING RULED BY THE POPE, ROMALIA IS NO EXCEPTION.
I...DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE POLITICS OF ALL OF THIS.
WOOO
THEN LET'S CHAT ABOUT SOMETHING MORE *INTERESTING*, SHALL WE?
HOW EXACTLY DOES A GIRL LIKE YOU END UP CUTE AS A *FAIRY*, HMM?
OH MY GOSH! I WAS BEING SERIOUS, YOU KNOW!!
OH, I WAS ONLY TEASING!
WE'RE ALMOST AT OUR DESTIN-ATION.
WHOOOSH

VMMM
THWOO
CAN YOU FLY A LITTLE LOWER?
YOU WANT ME TO SCOUT OUT THE CITY... USING MY ILLUSION SPELL?
THAT'S RIGHT. SURVEY THE TOWN USING YOUR POWERS...
AND THEN, USE THOSE POWERS TO RECREATE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN FOR US.
YOUR POWER IS ABLE TO RECREATE ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN, CORRECT...?
KRR...

AND ALTHOUGH I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE IDEA, IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT I'M ONLY A TOOL TO THEM.
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME TO USE THE VOID POWERS LIKE THAT...


YOU DIDN'T WANT TO RECKLESSLY DRAG HIM INTO A DANGEROUS SITUATION.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ANGRY, AT LEAST PART OF YOU WAS THINKING VERY RATIONALLY.
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

IT'S BECAUSE THIS MISSION IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR SOMEONE WHO ISN'T PROPERLY ARMED. NOT FOR YOU, BUT FOR MR. FAMILIAR.

SHHH..

SCRITCH SCRITCH

YOU DIDN'T JUST ASK ME TO DO THIS TO MAKE HIM JEALOUS...

I ALSO VISITED THE FLAGSHIP AND EXAMINED THAT FLYING MACHINE FOR MYSELF.
THE PLANE IS OUT OF AMMUNITION.
QUICK MANEUVERS AREN'T MUCH USE FOR THIS MISSION. AND IT SEEMS THAT YOU SPENT WHATEVER SECRET WEAPONS IT HAD PREPARED.

PLANE: TATSU (SIGN OF THE DRAGON)

BUT I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
UNLIKE ALL THOSE SELF-OBSESSED GENERALS, I'M NOT OUT TO USE OR TRICK ANYONE!
YANK
.....
YOU DO KNOW THAT CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT, RIGHT?
FA-FLAP
SEEMS LIKE OUR TIME HERE IS ABOUT TO RUN OUT.
WOOSH
.....

THE ENEMY IS HERE.
WOOOOSH
TURN AROUND!
SAY, LOUISE... ARE YOU ANY GOOD AT HORSEBACK RIDING?
WOOOSH

THEN... HOLD ON TIGHT!
Y-YES... I'M ALL RIGHT AT IT...
KREE!
FROOOF
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, CHARGING LIKE THIS?! YOU CAN'T USE MAGIC!!
FROOOSSH

THEY JUST CAST A SPELL AT US!
NOOO...!
CRACKLE
RR
FRCOSH
BRRR
BOOM
RATTLE
I'VE GOT TO BLOCK IT SOME-HOW--!
GRIP
DON'T LET GO!
WOOSH

FWOOOOM
ALL RIGHT, AZZURRO--USE YOUR BREATH! NOW!
SWIPE
AMAZING ...!
WOOOSH
EVEN THOUGH HE CAN'T USE MAGIC...
FWOOOSH

THE WAY HE COMMANDS HIS DRAGON MAKES UP FOR IT!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
VSSSH
CAREFUL, OR YOU'LL BITE YOUR TONGUE.
BEHIND YOU!
SWOOOP
SWOOOP
HUH?!

I SIMPLY DREW OUT THE NATURAL ABILITY OF MY DRAGON...
OTHER RIDERS TEND TO MAKE THEIR DRAGONS PERFORM A LOT OF UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT.
TUG
WH-WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
FLAP
NOW THEN, SHOULD WE HEAD BACK?
"THERE AREN'T JUST NOBLES IN THE PRIESTHOOD. THEY LET COMMONERS IN TOO, WHICH MEANS ONLY SOME OF THEM CAN USE MAGIC.
"IN SPITE OF BEING A COMMONER, THAT GUY'S EXTREMELY GOOD AT RIDING DRAGONS, SO THEY MADE HIM CAPTAIN OF THE THIRD COMPANY."
I THINK I UNDERSTAND...
HOW THIS COMMONER GAINED COMMAND OF HIS OWN COMPANY.
WHOOSH
VSSSSH!
FLAP
FWOOM
USE YOUR BREATH!

SSSSH
USE YOUR BREATH!
FWOOM

I SIMPLY DREW OUT THE NATURAL ABILITY OF MY DRAGON...
OTHER RIDERS TEND TO MAKE THEIR DRAGONS PERFORM A LOT OF UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT.
TUG
WH-WHAT JUST HAPPEN-ED?!
FLAP
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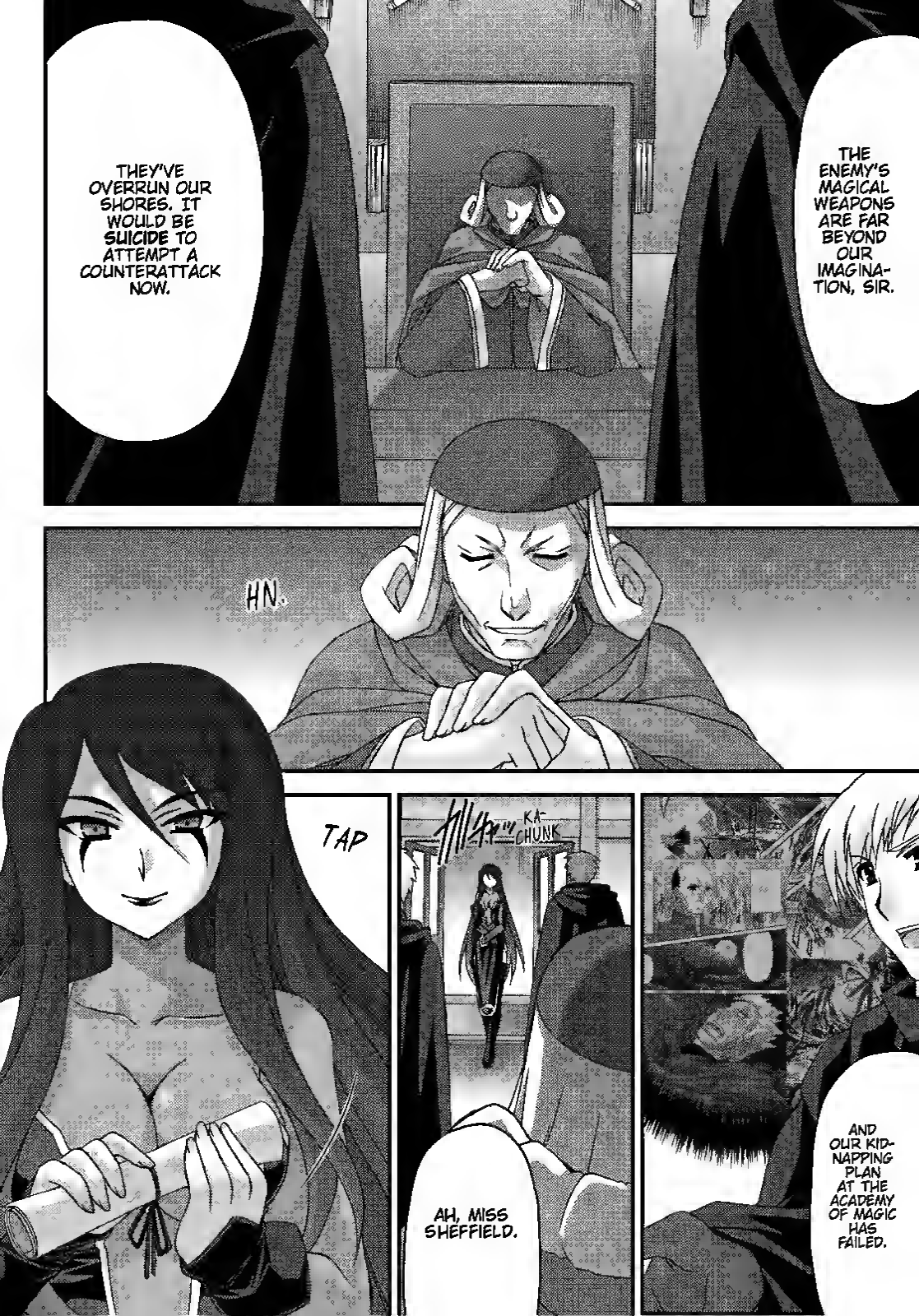
I THINK I UNDER-STAND...
FLAP
HOW THIS COMMONER GAINED COMMAND OF HIS OWN COMPANY.
WHOOSH

Le Familier de Zero Chevalier

ZERO'S
FAMILIAR
Chevalier

Chapter 19: The Secretary and the Emperor


THEY'VE OVERRUN OUR SHORES. IT WOULD BE SUICIDE TO ATTEMPT A COUNTERATTACK NOW.
THE ENEMY'S MAGICAL WEAPONS ARE FAR BEYOND OUR IMAGINATION, SIR.
HN.
TAP
KA-CHUNK
AH, MISS SHEFFIELD.
AND OUR KIDNAPPING PLAN AT THE ACADEMY OF MAGIC HAS FAILED.

I HAVE FINISHED MY REPORT ABOUT THE "ILLUSION" THAT SUDDENLY APPEARED AROUND DARDANELLES AND ASSAILED OUR PATROL SHIPS FOR OVER THIRTEEN HOURS--AND THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY, DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR.
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SIMPLY DISMISS IT. OUR PETTY OFFICERS ARE GENUINELY AFRAID OF OUR ENEMY--AND NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE ILLUSION. THERE'S THE ISSUE OF THAT MAGICAL LIGHT.
BUT... YOUR EXCEL-LENCY! THE EFFECT WAS QUITE GRAVE.
MISS SHEFFIELD, THIS IS *OLD NEWS*. THE INCIDENT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN UNDERHANDED TRICK--A MERE **MIRAGE** TO DISTRACT US.
IF THEY HAD SUCH POWER, THEY WOULD HAVE USED IT *BEFORE* LANDING IN ALBION.
HE IS CORRECT, YOUR EXCELLENCY. I HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE ENEMY FLEET IS *INCAPABLE* OF UNLEASHING THE SORT OF LIGHT THAT ANNIHILATED OUR FLEET AT TARBES.

WHAM!!
YOUR EXCELLENCY! THE GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS PREDICTS THE ENEMY WILL MOVE TO CAPTURE THE CITY OF SOUTH GOTHA!
THE ENEMY ARMY HAD THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL AT THAT POINT. THEY SURELY WOULD'VE THROWN THAT "MIRACULOUS LIGHT" AGAINST US IF--
WHAT IF THEY WERE MERELY SAVING IT?
THE ENEMY'S RECONNAISSANCE HAS BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA.
THEY PLAN TO USE IT AS A STRATEGIC BASE TO REPLENISH THEIR SUPPLIES.
JUST THE OTHER DAY, OUR SOLDIERS ENGAGED ONE OF THEIR SURVEY UNITS.
WE NEED TO DEPLOY OUR MAIN FORCES FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK.

WE WILL NOT MOVE OUR CORE FORCE FROM LONDINIUM. I DON'T CARE IF THEY CAPTURE SOUTH GOTHA.
YOU'LL ALLOW THE ENEMY TO REST AND PROCURE PROVISIONS UNDER OUR VERY NOSES?!
I WON'T BE GRANTING THEM PROVISIONS.
HOW?
SMIRK
WHY, WE'LL TAKE FOOD FROM THE POPULATION, OF COURSE.
BUT... PEOPLE WILL STARVE!
A SMALL SACRIFICE.
YOU'LL TURN A MAJOR METROPOLIS AGAINST US!
CLENCH
WE'LL BLAME IT ON THE DEMI-HUMANS SENT AHEAD INTO THE CITY.

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I WANT YOU TO SET A TRAP ON SOUTH GOTHA'S WATER SUPPLY.
YOU PLAN TO... POISON IT, YOUR EXCEL-LENCY?
NOT POISON. I WANT THE VOID.
FWIP
MEN! WE MUST STOP THE ENEMY'S ADVANCE!!
TO COINCIDE WITH THE END OF THE PENTECOST, THE TWO STAVES AND THE VOID WILL DEAL A CRUSHING BLOW TO OUR FOES!
CRUNCH
OOOOH!!
THE TWO STAVES ARE THE EMBLEM OF THE KINGDOM OF GALLIA... SO GALLIA WILL FINALLY JOIN THE FRAY.
AND WHEN IT DOES, OUR ARMY WILL DEMOLISH THE INVADING FORCES AND THEIR PRIDE!
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

RAISE
RRAAAH
LET US CHEER FOR OUR BRAVE TROOPS!
AYE!
HURRAY FOR THE HOLY ALBION REPUBLIC!
HURRAY FOR THE HOLY ALBION REPUBLIC!
I PROMISE VICTORY!!
WE, GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE OF ALBION, WILL LEAD HALKEGINIA!!
AAAAAAAYE!
AYE!
SHIRK

SAITO... YOU IDIOT!!
WAH!
TMP
BE...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO MAKE A SCENE?!
BECAUSE THOSE GUYS ARE HUGE!
GLOW
FWOOO
Sigh
.....

I CAN'T FAIL AT THIS.
MISS ZERO, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INFILTRATE THE CITY AND CREATE A DIVERSION FOR THE ASSAULT ON SOUTH GOTHA.
YES, SIR.
Ah!
WHO GOES THERE?
La la la~
Phew
WE'RE TRAVELERS, ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE OLD CAPITAL OF SOUTH GOTHA.
WE'VE COME FOR GUIDANCE, AND TO PRAY FOR ALBION'S VICTORY IN THIS WAR.
HOLY CRAP, THEY'RE HUGE!!
FREEZE
ガキーン!!

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!
YII
YII
DA-DAAAAN
TURN
GOOONG
NO, HE RUINED EVERY-THING!
END OF FLASHBACK
CLINK
CLINK
What's the matter, partner? Your heart's not into this.
OKAY...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW! THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS TAKE THEM OUT OR SOME-THING!

KA-BOOOM
OUR MAIN FORCE IS ATTACK-ING!
MY BODY USUALLY WOULD'VE SPRUNG INTO ACTION WITHOUT THINKING...
THE REASON WE FAILED HERE... THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!!
DOOM
WE'RE COMPLE-TELY SUR-ROUNDED!

FWOOOM
WHOOOSH
GNOOORG!!
TMP
IT'S THE THIRD COMPANY!
FRrOOOOSH

JULIO!!
FSSSSH
GRIP
TMP
HURRY UP AND GET ON!
RIGHT!

FLAP
SOAR...
I NOTICED YOU GUYS GETTING CHASED.
TH-THANK YOU! YOU SAVED OUR LIVES!
NO NEED TO THANK US.
FLAP
I GUESS THE ARMY ONLY SEES A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU AS A TOOL.
AREN'T YOU A SOLDIER?
NO-- I'M A PRIEST.

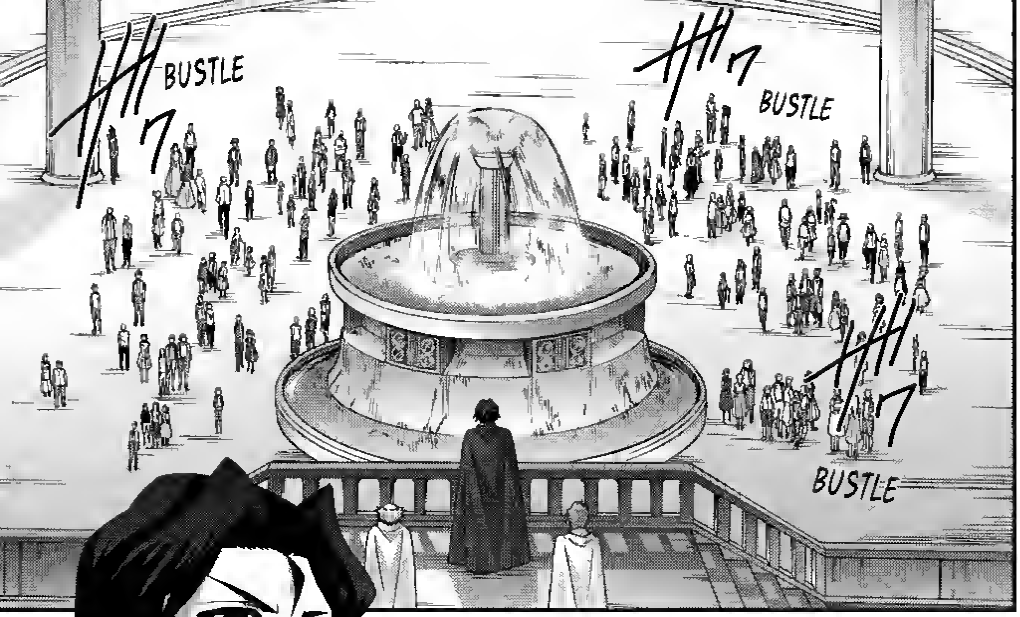
BUT HE'S RIGHT... I FEEL THAT WAY, TOO.
DO THOSE GENERALS SERIOUSLY THINK WE'RE CAPABLE OF EVERYTHING?
IRK
LOUISE?
!
THEY CAN BRING THEIR FIGHT!

WE'LL SHOW THEM WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE PUT OUR MINDS TO!!
BAM!

.....

LOUISE...

ONE WEEK LATER



WE HEREBY *LIBERATE* THE CITY OF SOUTH GOTHA!

GOING AGAINST CONGRESS, WE GRANT SOUTH GOTHA THE RIGHT OF *SELF-GOVERNMENT* UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE TRISTAINIAN AND GERMANIAN GOVERNMENTS!

CLINK
.....
Yaaay!
GLOW...
ANDÚRIL
THE LIGHT'S GETTING WEAKER...
ALMOST LIKE IT'S LOW ON BATTERIES.
CLINK
CLINK
The strength of Gandalfr depends on the fire in your heart.
I... WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH ME?

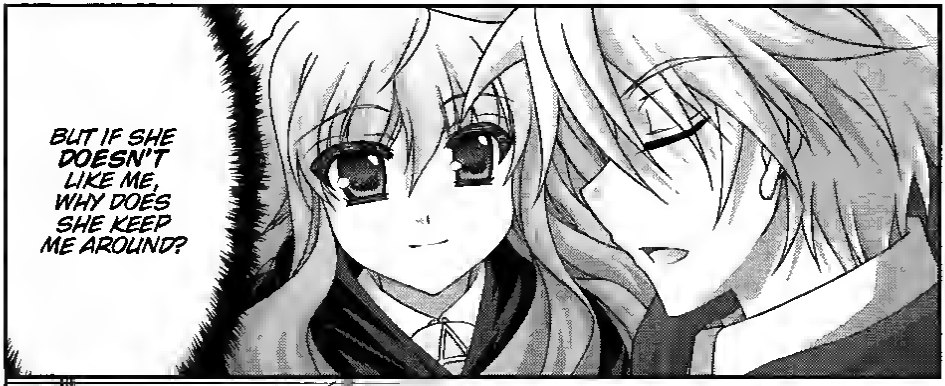
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
You're losin' the fire!
It's because things aren't goin' well between you and that noble girl. You're startin' to doubt your Master, see?

GLANCE

WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR, ANYWAY?

IF THIS GETS WORSE... WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO FIGHT...?
.....

"I GUESS THE ARMY ONLY SEES A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU AS A TOOL."
I WOULDN'T MIND LOSING LOUISE IF IT WAS TO HIM.


BUT IF SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME, WHY DOES SHE KEEP ME AROUND?

URGH!!

POP
POP
POP

MEANWHILE, AT ALBION CASTLE...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
MISS SHEFFIELD... WILL HE REALLY SEND TROOPS TO MY NATION?!
I'M SCARED! WHY WOULD A NORMAL MAN WHO CAN'T EVEN USE MAGIC GO ON A CONQUEST?!
JOLT
MISS SHEF-FIELD!
CREAK
WHAT A SPLENDID SPEECH, LORD BISHOP.
SHHH

GROW UP!
GRIT
EEP!
STUMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
"YOUR NATION"? YOUR SUPPOSED PLOT OF LAND IS BARELY FIFTY SANTS IN ANY DIRECTION.
F-FORGIVE ME!
ANDVARI'S RING.

HEH
HEH...
SHAKE
SHAKE
.....
WHAT POWER DO YOU THINK IS HELD WITHIN THIS RING?
YOU SAID IT WAS VOID...
NO--IT'S NOT VOID. IT'S JUST A SINGLE DROP OF THE POWER SOURCE THAT GOVERNS THIS WORLD.
A SUBSTANCE THAT WOULD BECOME THE SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC--SOME CALL IT THE MAGIC OF THE FIRST. IF ANYTHING, IT'S THE ENEMY OF VOID.

A MATERIALIZATION OF THE POWER OF WATER... CREATED WHEN POWERFUL MAGIC IS CONDENSED. A SECRET PROCESS PROTECTED BY THE SPIRIT OF WATER.
GLEAM
GLOW
WITH THE MANY POWERS OF THIS RING...
ROUSING A CORPSE IS A SIMPLE TASK.

Chapter 20: Cease-fire

HOORAAAY!
あ"
.....
Uuuu
uugh...

LOUISE...

"It's because things aren't goin' well between you and that noble girl."
"THE REASON WE FAILED HERE... THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!!"

CLENCH
CLENCH
OH, WOW! SO EVEN HE'S CAPABLE OF GETTING FULL-FLEDGED JEALOUS~!
IGNORE
TP
TP
TP
Sigh
GLANCE
HEH HEH HEH...
SERVES YOU RIGHT!!

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE, REFLECT ON WHAT YOU DID!
...ÈRE.
MWA HA HA
HA!!

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
HUH? W-WAIT FOR ME!

OH, H-HELLO!
WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?!
MISS VALLIÈRE.

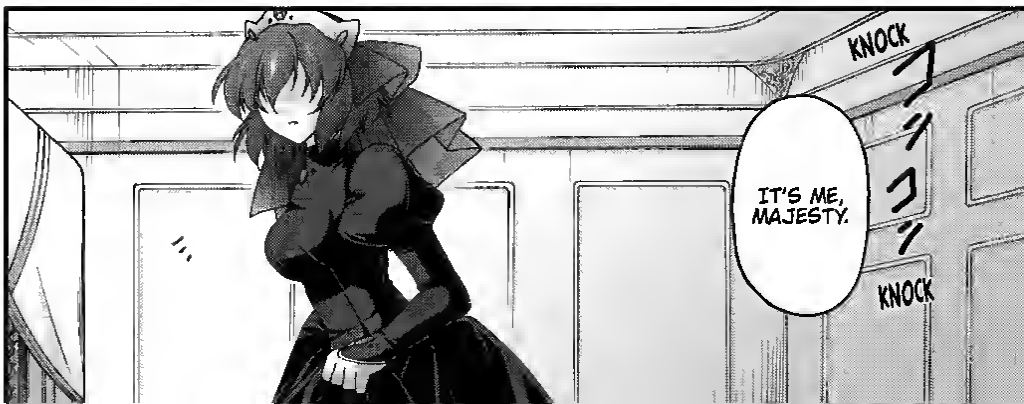
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
I'VE BEEN CALLED UP--I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
!!
I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE A FEW OF OUR GREATEST HEROES!
NO WAY...!

HIS COMPANY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST BRAVE FORCES TO BREAK THROUGH TO THE CITY!

ONCE THIS WAR IS OVER AND PEACE IS RESTORED...
I CAN REPORT MY MILITARY ACCOMPLISH-MENTS TO MY FATHER... AND EVERYONE!
CLENCH
BUT IF I WANT TO DO THAT, I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE A SINGLE MISTAKE. AND YET...
THAT IDIOT GUICHE IS GETTING A MEDAL? AND HIS ELDER BROTHER IS EVEN CONGRATU-LATING HIM...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
GLANCE
COME ON. PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, YOU DOLT!

TRISTAN'S CAPITAL: TRISTANIA


KNOCK
コンコン
KNOCK
IT'S ME, MAJESTY.

FORGIVE ME. I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT YOUR PRAYER.
I'VE BEEN PRAYING FROM DAYBREAK TO NIGHTFALL. YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO INTERRUPT IT.
CLICK
CLICK
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
RUSTLE
COME IN.
OUR ALLIED FORCES TOOK FULL CONTROL OF SOUTH GOTHA YESTERDAY.
THAT'S GOOD NEWS, INDEED.
SEND MY CONGRATU-LATIONS TO THE GENERALS.
?
HOW-EVER..

!
THE STORES OF SOUTH GOTHA WERE COMPLETELY EMPTY.
HOW CRUEL!
PLEASE MAKE THE ARRANGE-MENTS TO SHARE OUR FOOD SUPPLIES WITH THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH GOTHA.
WHY...?
WERE THEY TRYING TO HALT OUR ADVANCE?
OF COURSE BUT I SHOULD WARN YOU ABOUT THE LEVELS IN OUR NATIONAL TREASURY.
THAT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF IF WE WIN THIS WAR.
WE'LL SIMPLY PAY OFF OUR DEBTS WITH ALBION'S PURSE. YES?
IN ADDI-TION...
OUR ENEMY HAS REQUESTED A CEASEFIRE UNTIL THE END OF THE PENTECOST.

THE PENTECOST IS HALKEGINIA'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL. IT STARTS ON THE FIRST OF THE NEW YEAR AND LASTS FOR TEN DAYS...
TO ASK FOR A CEASEFIRE THAT LONG?
THAT WOULD BE ALMOST TWO WEEKS!
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
WE CAN'T TRUST COWARDS WITH NO QUALMS ABOUT CAPTURING THE YOUTH OF THE ACADEMY OF MAGIC!
NO, WE CAN'T TRUST THEM, BUT...
WE CAN'T MOVE WHILE WE TRANSPORT PROVISIONS.
IN THAT CASE, I WANT LONDINIUM CAPTURED THIS INSTANT!
WHY DO YOU THINK I SENT THAT ENORMOUS FLEET?!
I DIDN'T DEPLOY THAT MASS OF TROOPS TO SIT AROUND AND TWIDDLE THEIR THUMBS!
YOUR MAJESTY, WE CAN'T ASK UNREASON-ABLE THINGS OF OUR SOLDIERS--
WHY DO YOU THINK I SENT OUR TRUMP CARD?!

AH!
I ALREADY DISPATCHED THE VOID...!
YOUR MAJESTY.. WHEN THE WAR ENDS, PLEASE RID YOURSELF OF THE BLACK.
TAP TAP
CHA-CHUNK
.....
I- I FEAR I'VE SAID TOO MUCH. PLEASE FORGET MY OUT-BURST.
EVERY-ONE IS PERFOR-MING VERY WELL.

HUG
NNGH!
H-HOW COULD I SAY SUCH A THING...?
HOW COULD I HAVE REFERRED TO LOUISE AS THE VOID?!
SO IT'S TRUE. A STRONG ENOUGH INTENT CAN TURN SOMEONE DEAR INTO A TOOL.
LOUISE...

THREE DAYS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CEASEFIRE...
WOOOOO
ヒュオオ
SHIVER
IT'S SO COLD!
HEY, SAITO!
BUSTLE
カヽ
カヽ
BUSTLE
CRACKLE
SNAP
CRACKLE
AREN'T YOU COLD, TOO?
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO THE FIREPLACE?

Aaagh!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
SILENCE
.....
.....
IF YOU STAY OVER THERE, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
YOU NEED TO BE IN TIP-TOP SHAPE!
GRAB
HEY!
GLOOM
WHAT IS THIS...?
h...
TEAR
TEAR..
PIECES OF CORK.

HE'S SO... SULKY!
IT'S MAKING ME DEPRESSED!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
JUST GET OVER YOUR-SELF!!
SHOVE
ROLL
ROLL
WHAT A GLOOMY FAMILIAR!!
GLARE
SHOVE
POKE
POKE
POKE
COME ON TALK TO ME!
HEY!
COME ON, COME ON!

THEN MAYBE PUSH ME DOWN...
WILL HE ASSAULT ME?!
RECOIL
UH-OH! HE'S GONNA YELL AT ME NOW!
ドキドキドキドキドキドキドキ
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
W-WAIT!
STAND ING
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
FOR A WALK.
CREAK

CHAK
HE'S JUST MOPING AROUND LIKE A MEEK LITTLE--
HUH?! OH, PLEASE... IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!
CLINK
You're a cold woman, y'know that?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
And who made my partner like that, huh?
Uh...
CLINK
CLINK
He's convinced you dumped him.
Lemme fill you in.

What about those other girls?
CLINK
BUT HE'S BEEN...SO DISTANT WITH ME.
HE IGNORES ME.
AND THOSE OTHER GIRLS...
My partner gave up on his plan to head East to stick around here with you! He even told you he loves you!
CLINK
CLINK
To turn 'round and say he was just bein' a loyal dog... The poor guy.
Ahhhh!
Ughh!
Urrggh!
Now it's your turn to bend for **him.**
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
Believe me--he's a one-woman guy.
Jeez. She's takin' this hard.

F-
FINE!
CLINK
Fair enough. How's about this...
CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP
I'LL GO APOLOGIZE TO HIM!
BUT STOP *LECTURING* ME AND JUST TELL ME WHAT TO SAY!
ALL RIGHT. THIS TIME I'M *DEFINITELY* GOING EAST.
I DOUBT LOUISE WANTS ME AROUND WHEN I'M LIKE THIS, ANYWAY.

MR. SAITO!
SIESTA!
To be continued!

It's the afterword!!
Hello and pleased to meet you! It's me--Yukari Higa!
We're now on Volume 3 of *Zero's Familiar: Chevalier*~!
The tone's really starting to get serious, huh?
I'll keep trying my hardest in Volume 4 and beyond, so please, please support me! ☆
Until we meet again--! ☆
Assistant
K.ishiduka
EIti YuU
RANKA
& Digital assistants
Highway star
Official site: http://pen.serio.jp/highwaystar
Blog: http://mekapen.blog116.fc2.com
Twitter: http://twitter.com/higayukari

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Le Familier de Zero

Le Familier de Zero

Le Familier de Zero Chevalier

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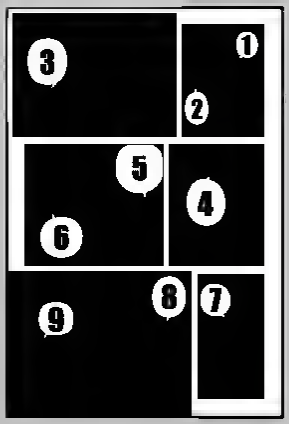
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR

The Tristain Magic Academy is under attack! Kirche, Tabitha, and Agnès manage to slip away before they're kidnapped, but the situation looks dire—until the person they least expect reveals surprising abilities and a dark past.

Meanwhile, Louise is doing everything she can to help the war effort, dragging Saito along on secret mission after secret mission. But the stress and danger make it clear just how little they have in common. Can two people from different worlds really make it work?

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